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## GEOGRAPHICAL REVIEWS

### THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARGENTINA

PIERRE DENIS. **La république Argentine: La mise en valeur du pays.** 299 pp.; maps, bibliogr. Armand Colin, Paris, 1920. 14 fr. 9 x 5½ inches.

Scholarly geographical works on South America are few, and the appearance of a volume on the Argentine by the author of "Brazil" in the South American Series will be welcomed by serious students of geography the world over.

The volume is not a systematic regional geography. In his introduction the author points out that such a treatment, while it is the most satisfactory for the long-settled countries of Europe, is not necessarily the best for the Argentine, where one of the salient elements in the geography is still the constant shifting of the population and the transitory nature in any one region of a special type of exploitation. If geographers will accept this and study the work from the viewpoint of the author they will find it fit to take its place beside the best regional studies of Europe. The book has as its subtitle "*La mise en valeur du pays*," and it partakes in part of the nature of an examination of the economic life of the country and is at the same time an explanatory history of colonization in the Argentine. But, inasmuch as the author is a geographer, there is scarcely a page of the work which does not set forth some leading feature of the varying physical environments which lead to such a variety of economic conditions.

The author's book on Brazil was written for the general and non-technical reader, and yet it contains a most valuable sketch of the geography of that country. The present work is evidently intended for a different public. It presumes a considerable knowledge of the processes and conditions underlying the physical geography. A brief explanatory statement of the physical geography as an introduction might however have been added with advantage.

The work begins with a short chapter on the natural regions and sets forth the leading features of the landscape in each. The close relationship between the details of surface relief and soil on the one hand and climate on the other are well brought out. In this chapter we are introduced to the human responses to these environments throughout the history of the country.

The next two chapters deal respectively with "The Oases of the Northwest and the Pastoral Life in the Scrublands" and "Tucumán and Mendoza, the Great Industrial Cultures." In these two as in subsequent chapters the historical development of local industries and occupations is traced in considerable detail; and the accounts of the actual state of industries throughout the book appear to be so well informed, both as regards technique and labor conditions, that each might have been written by an expert. In these chapters we learn of the three zones of habitation in the northern Cordilleras—the wide *valles*, the narrow *quebradas*, and the *puna*. The account of water resources and of the elaborate and ancient customs regarding their utilization merits careful study. The same is true of the description of the great sugar industry of Tucumán and the anomalous climatic conditions which have made it possible, while the response of the wine industry of Mendoza to physical geography is clearly set forth.

Chapter 4 is entitled "The Exploitation of the Forests, but it includes other aspects of the geography of the two main forest regions—the Chaco with the Paraná valley and the narrow slice of the typically Brazilian forest included in the territory of Misiones. The omission of the southern Andean forests is explained by the statement in the chapter on Patagonia that the chief economic use of these is in the regulation of run-off in connection with the hydraulic schemes of the future. Since the lumbermen of the Chaco forests are largely drawn from the irrigation oases of the *bañados*, further west, the author characteristically opens with a description of the life in these oases, with the emigration in May to Tucumán for sugar work, in October to Córdoba and Santa Fé for agriculture, and throughout the year to the Chaco forest. An interesting contrast is drawn between lumbering, on the one hand, in the interior of the Chaco with its small mobile mills owned by men of small capital and incapable of being worked economically very far from the railways and, on the

other hand, the forest operations near the Paraná carried on entirely by the great tannic acid combines possessed of large capital and owning great factories. The latter draw their labor from the left bank of the river and use the quebracho wood almost entirely for the extraction of the tannin. In this belt the land tends to get into the hands of a smaller number of owners each year, and in the province of Santa Fé the entire forest is divided between two companies. The author expects that the Chaco forest will eventually disappear and give place to cattle ranches.

Of Misiones with its forest life we have a brief but satisfactory picture: the lumbering in the Araucaria woods; the *maté* industry, with its serflike labor, which may be compared to the rubber gathering of the Amazons; and the small agricultural settlements in the clearings.

Chapters 5 and 6, on Patagonia and the Pampas respectively, are perhaps the most satisfactory part of the book from a geographical standpoint. They are much more systematic in their treatment and are so rich in content that they should be carefully read by all geographers. The physical conditions are never lost sight of. In each region they are sufficiently well-known to permit of a subdivision into what are probably the real human geographical provinces, each with its distinct and fairly well-established mode of life. The Pampas chapter is a specially good example of a study of this kind.

Chapter 7 describes the main roads and railways in the Republic, sketching their setting, their development, and the economic basis of their traffic; while Chapter 8 deals with the waterways in similar fashion. In the latter chapter is included a physical description of the Paraná and Uruguay systems which is lucid and thorough. The work concludes with a chapter on the population, its distribution and its movements, the sites and character of the cities, leading up to a sketch of the personality of Buenos Aires.

As we may hope that the work will speedily run into a new edition, it may be useful to point out a fault which can be easily remedied. The maps, seven in number, are insufficient. They were doubtless limited by the cost, but the publisher would be well advised to allow more scope in this matter. To take but two instances: the detailed description of the Paraná, with its changing meanders, and the account of the contours in the pampas are greatly impaired by complete lack of illustration. But the existing maps would be doubly useful if placed at the end of the book so as to fold out, and if references to them were given in the text. There is not a line on these diagrams that is not essential. The work contains an exceedingly useful bibliography with critical annotations.

#### THE BRITISH WEST INDIES IN RELATION TO THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

F. W. PITMAN. **The Development of the British West Indies, 1700-1763.** xiv and 495 pp.; map, diagrs., bibliogr., index. (Yale Historical Publications: Studies, IV.) Yale University Press, New Haven, 1917. \$2.50. 8½ x 6 inches.

As in most modern wars, economic causes lay back of the American Revolution. Questions of trade were almost as important a factor in bringing about that conflict as were political rights and liberties. The present volume, in addition to treating of the development of social life, the distribution of land holdings, the labor problems encountered, and the financial systems in vogue in the West Indies, presents a carefully detailed account of some of the economic conditions which contributed to the separation of the North American colonies from Great Britain. The work is based chiefly upon manuscripts found in the British Museum and the Public Record Office.

The exchange of commodities between North America and the West Indies Islands figured prominently among these economic factors. These two regions were geographically complementary. In climate and soil, hence in their products, they were sharply contrasted. The typical productions of New England, such as grain, lumber, fish, and horses, together with the limited output of incipient Yankee manufacture, barrel staves, hoops, boards, and shingles, found their nearest and most natural market in the tropical colonies that stretched from the Bermudas to Surinam, while the rapidly growing settlements along the North Atlantic coast offered a ready emporium for a large part of the sugar which was almost the sole product of the West Indies. But this trade, based on geographical dissimilarity of the two regions, refused entirely to recognize the artificial boundaries established by political sovereignty. Such a condition was not at all in keeping with the commercial policies prevailing in Europe; hence England and France, the mother countries most